



**UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN
UNMIS**

Special Media Monitoring Report on the Eliasson, Salim joint mission

13 February 2007

(By Public Information Office)

NOTE: Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should Not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.

UN, AU envoys in Sudan to revive Darfur peace process

(AFP/ST) Envoys from the United Nations and African Union (AU) arrived in Khartoum on Monday in a bid to revive peace talks in the troubled western Sudanese region of Darfur.

Jan Eliasson of the UN and Salim Ahmed Salim of the AU are due to meet officials in Khartoum before heading to Darfur in a bid to win over rebel groups which did not sign a May 2006 peace deal with the government.

"We will endeavour to broaden the accord to include the non-signatories," Salim told reporters on his arrival.

Salim expressed optimism over the latest peace bid despite the divisions among the rebels.

On Tuesday, *AlAyaam* daily reports that the two envoys held talks the previous day with foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol.

At a joint press conference in the wake of the meeting, Jan Eliasson underlined the need to a ceasefire in Darfur to enable political dialogue in order to resolve the crisis in Darfur.

He said that the humanitarian situation in Darfur was deteriorating and required political efforts to solve the issues. He said that violence is also to blame for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

Eliasson called upon the government to cooperate with the international community to find solution to the crisis.

Salim Ahmed Salim told the press conference that their visit comes within the framework of discussions for a political solution to the Darfur crisis and to bolster joint efforts.

He said that they want to stop the violence and find out what is going on in the humanitarian field. He also underlined the need to define the African Union's responsibilities with regards the humanitarian efforts on the ground. He added that this is what is of concern to the African Union, the UN and the Sudan government.

Salim also added that they will seek to hold talks with the DPA signatory and non-signatory factions and all other stakeholders on the Darfur issue.

On his part, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that the government is ready to present all concessions possible to bring an end to the crisis through political dialogue.

Ambassador Ali el-Sadiq pointed out however that the Darfur Peace Agreement will not be reopened for dialogue but the government is ready to discuss further alternatives and give concessions.

He however urged the African Union and UN envoys to convince the rebels to lower their demands. The government, he assured, will provide every possible assistance to the envoys for the success of talks with the non-signatory factions.

The spokesperson pointed out that a ceasefire and improvement in the humanitarian situation are an important basis for political dialogue.

AlRai AlAam adds that the foreign ministry spokesperson asked the two envoys to show more resolve towards the Darfur Peace Agreement non-signatory groups and pointed out that not penalising these groups encourages them to continue setting obstacles to implementation of the agreement.

The paper adds that the envoys also held talks yesterday with Presidential Advisor Nafei Ali Nafei and discussed possible measures to overcome obstacles to the peace process in Darfur and consolidate African Union-UN joint efforts to implement the support package.

Speaking to the press, Nafei described the meeting as positive and said that the views of the two sides were not very different on the various aspects of support for the peace process.

The daily further notes that Mr. Eliasson had a phone conversation with Egypt's foreign minister ahead of his coming to Khartoum during which the minister assured him that Egypt remains in contact with all parties in order to bolster the efforts for peace.

AlSudani has the story of the envoys' visit to the bottom of page one under the title *Government not pleased that Eliasson and Salim have presented no new ideas.*

The paper reports that sources quoting foreign minister Dr. Lam Akol said that the Sudan government was not happy that the two envoys have come with no new proposals for a solution to the Darfur crisis.

Commentaries :

Kamal el-Sadiq (AlAyaam): This columnist writing in *AlAyaam* under the heading: “***Eliasson and Salim’s mission ... will it be the last such mission?***” starts his column with a quotation from Mr. Jan Eliasson’s statement before the press on arrival in which he is quoted as saying that the humanitarian situation in Darfur is deteriorating and requires political solution and in which he underlined the need for a ceasefire ahead of political talks for an end to the crisis. “Darfur”, Jan Eliasson is quoted as saying, “has suffered enough”.

The writer describes the situation in Darfur as unbearable and says the stakeholders each have to rise to the responsibility.

He expresses hopes that the stakeholders will heed to the pleas of the two envoys to ceasefire to enable the flow of humanitarian operations and ease the plight of the civilian population and in order to give chance to the political process.

Aarif el-Sawi (AlSahafa): Under the title: “***Two men; one mission***”, the writer of this column appearing on *AlSahafa* daily highlights the visit of envoys Eliasson and Salim and goes to a great length in highlighting the circumstances that led to the two being appointed envoys for their respective organisations.

He winds up by posing the question, “will this mission by the two envoys compliment the Darfur Peace Agreement within an international context or only a regional context?”

He wraps by pointing out that the government seems to have embraced the visit.